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treating a sample having said enzyme wherein said column has a chromatographic carrier for specifically binding [such] an enzyme inhibitor[s] corresponding to [at least one] said enzyme in the sample { a valve/pump assembly connected to [the end of] the column so as to bring at least a part of the sample into contact with a substrate for reaction therewith, resulting in a cleavage product, and a means for detecting the activity of [at least one] said enzyme. }

8. (Amended) A device according to claim 7 wherein the column can be used repeatedly as there is an excess of the [substance] liquids corresponding to the capacity of the column.

13. (Amended) A device according to claim [11] 31 [characterized in that] wherein the said [control] device is also able to measure the electrolytic conductance of liquids.

16. (Amended) A device according to Claim [10] 31 further including a device for mixing connected in series to the column as to produce a homogenous mixture of the said sample with the [buffer of the column] column-buffer.

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17. (Amended) A device according to claim [7] 10 wherein the valve/pump assembly performs the mixing of a measuring buffer to the said sample to be measured to the column- buffer and the substrate to produce definite experimental conditions.

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18. (Amended) A device according to Claim 7 wherein the [detector] means for detecting includes a fluorimeter.

19. (Amended) A device according to Claim 7 further includes means to [guarantee] maintain a constant temperature in the vessel.

21. (Amended) A device according to Claim 7 further including at least one valve connected to the column to pass a washing buffer at least through the column and the valve-/pump assembly.

22. (Amended) A device according to Claim 7 further including a processor to run and control the [filling of the vessel with] feeding of sample and substrate to the column, the mixing and charging of the vessel and the detection and evaluation of the concentration-increase per unit of time of at least one of the cleavage products of the substrate.

29. (Amended) A device for measuring the activity of ^{an} ~~enzymes~~ ^{comprising:} in liquid ~~in~~ a vessel, ~~said device having~~ a column, said column having a chromatographic carrier having a substance capable of binding an enzyme inhibitor corresponding to ^{said} ~~at least one~~ enzyme in a sample, a valve/pump assembly between said column and said vessel for filling said vessel with a substrate and ^{the} ~~a~~ sample, said sample and said substrate reacting to form a cleavage product, a

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detector for measuring the increase of the concentration per unit of time of said cleavage product, and a means for enabling the passage of said sample through said column or outside said column into said vessel [as desired].

30. (Amended) A device for measuring the activity of ^{an} ~~enzymes~~ ^{compl.} in liquid ⁱⁿ a vessel, ~~said device having~~ a column for treating a sample, said column carrying a chromatographic carrier treated with a substance capable of binding an enzyme inhibitor corresponding to at least ~~one~~ ^{the} enzyme in ~~a~~ ^{the} sample, said column being connected for discharge into [a] the vessel, a substrate source being connected for discharge into said vessel and reaction with said sample thereby releasing a cleavage product, a detector for measuring the increase of the concentration per unit of time in the treated vessel of said cleavage product, and further including a means for measuring the [degree of dilution] activity of said enzyme of the discharged sample.

31. (Amended) A device for measuring the activity of enzymes in liquid in a vessel, said device having a column for treating a sample, said column being exchangeable and filled with a chromatographic carrier treated with a substance [having] capable of binding an enzyme inhibitor which correspond to at least one enzyme in the sample, a valve/pump assembly having a supply tube connected in series to a sample reservoir so as to fill [a] the vessel with a buffer and the treated sample, a substrate source connected to said vessel for discharge of a

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substrate into said vessel for reaction with said treated sample, thereby releasing a cleavage product, and a detector for measuring the increase of the concentration per unit of time of [at least one] said cleavage product, further including a control device connected [in series] to the column for monitoring the purity of the buffer discharging the sample from the column.

32. (Amended) A device for the [continuous and automatic] measurement of the concentration and activity of enzyme inhibitors in liquids in a vessel, said device having a column for treating a sample having said enzyme inhibitors wherein said column has a chromatographic carrier for specifically binding an enzyme corresponding to at least one enzyme inhibitor in the sample, a valve/pump assembly connected to the end of the column so as to bring at least a part of the sample into contact with a measuring assay for reaction therewith, and a means for detecting the activity of at least one enzyme inhibitor and a means for detecting the concentration of at least one enzyme inhibitor.

35. (Amended) A device according to claim 29 further including a column buffer discharged from the column and a control device for checking the purity of the column buffer [discharged from the column], said control device working photometrically.

36. (Amended) A device according to claim 29 further including a column buffer discharged from the column and an arrangement connected in series to the column for measuring

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the degree of dilution of the discharged sample caused by the column buffer, said arrangement capable of also measuring the volume of liquids.

37. (Amended) A device according to one of the claim 29 further including a measuring buffer and a column-buffer, wherein the valve/pump [arrangement] assembly admixes [a] the measuring buffer to the said sample, and if need be, to the column buffer and to the substrate in the [test tue] vessel so as to produce definite experimental conditions.

39. (Amended) A device according to claim 29 further including a means to thermostat the [test tube] vessel.

40. (Amended) A device according to claim 29 further including at least one valve connected to the column to pass a buffer as a wash liquid at least through the column and the valve/pump [arrangement] assembly.

41. (Amended) A device according to claim 29 wherein further including a computer [to run and control] capable of running and controlling [and if need be,] the mixing and charging of the vessel and the detection and evaluation of the concentration increase per unit of time of [at least one of the] said cleavage product[s] of the substrate.

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44. (Amended) A device according to claim 30 ^{source of} further including a column buffer [^] and a control device for checking the purity of the column buffer discharged from the column, said control device working photometrically.

45. (Amended) A device according to claim 30 wherein said means [further including an arrangement connected in series to the column] for measuring the [degree of dilution] activity of said enzyme [of the discharged sample caused by the column buffer], said [arrangement] means for measuring capable of also measuring the volume of liquids.

46. (Amended) A device according to claim 30 further including a column buffer, wherein the valve/pump [arrangement] assembly admixes a measuring buffer to the said sample, and if need be, to the column buffer and to the substrate in the [test tube] vessel so as to produce definite experimental conditions.

48. (Amended) A device according to claim 30 further including a means to thermostat the [test tube] vessel.

49. (Amended) A device according to claim 30 further including at least one valve connected to said column to pass a buffer as a wash liquid at least through the column and the valve/pump [arrangement] assembly.

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50. (Amended) A device according to claim 30 further including a computer to run and control [and if need be,] the mixing and charging of the vessel and the detection and evaluation of the concentration increase per unit of time of at least one of the cleavage products of the substrate.

53. (Amended) A device according to claim 31 [further including a control device for checking the purity of the column buffer discharged from the column,] wherein said control device work[ing]s photometrically.

54. (Amended) A device according to claim 31 further including a column buffer and an arrangement connected in series to the column for measuring the degree of dilution of the discharged sample caused by the column buffer, said arrangement capable of also measuring the volume of liquids.

55. (Amended) A device according to one of the claim 31 wherein the valve/pump [arrangement] assembly admixes a measuring buffer to the said sample, and if need be, to the [column] buffer and to the substrate in the [test tue] vessel so as to produce definite experimental conditions.

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57. (Amended) A device according to claim 31 further including a means to thermostat the [test tube] vessel.

58. (Amended) A device according to claim 31 further including [at least one] a valve connected to said column to pass a buffer as a wash liquid at least through the column and the valve/pump [arrangement] assembly.

59. (Amended) A device according to claim 31 further including a computer to run and control [and if need be,] the mixing and charging of the vessel and the detection and evaluation of the concentration increase per unit of time of at least one of the cleavage products of the substrate.

REMARKS

In the above identified Office Action the Examiner has objected to claims 13 and 16 because of erroneous dependencies. Applicant has corrected these matters, and as such, claims 13 and 16 are considered to depend from the correct claim 31.

The Examiner has further rejected claims 7-9, 17-19, 21 and 22 as containing subject matter not described in the specification. The Examiner has stated that amended claim 7 includes a new limitation that the devices for the measurement concentration of the activity of enzymes. Applicant has corrected claim 7 so that it now refers to simply measuring the activity